

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/649,330

Examiner

Árpád Fábián Kovács

Applicant(s)

SAMEJIMA ET AL.

Art Unit

3671

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3/21/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-14 and 16-18.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 26 August 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Nathan Prepelka on 5/17/2005 & 5/18/2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 11 has been replaced with:

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A mid-mount mower having a mower unit disposed between front wheels and rear wheels, comprising:

a body frame supported above the ground by said front wheels and rear wheels, said body frame having a front cross frame in a forward portion thereof with respect to a longitudinal direction of a vehicle body, said front cross frame suspending said front wheels;

a main jack body mounted on the front cross frame to be pivotable about a pivot shaft extending longitudinally of the vehicle body, said main jack body being in a storage position extending along said front cross frame when pivoted to a first pivot position about said pivot shaft, and in a substantially vertical position relative to the ground with

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one end of said main jack body contacting the ground when pivoted to a second pivot position about the pivot shaft; and

a brake pedal disposed in a forward portion of the body frame to be movable between a braking position and a non-braking position; and a lock device for holding the brake pedal in said braking position; wherein said brake pedal in said non-braking position blocks operation of said control device engaged with said controlled portion of the main jack body in said vertical position relative to the ground;

wherein when an operating force is applied to a controlled portion of the main jack body in said vertical position relative to the ground, said main jack body is extendable and contractible to raise and lower said front cross frame while maintaining said front cross frame in a substantially parallel posture relative to the ground.

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Claim 15 has been cancelled.

Claim 16 has been replaced with:

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A mid-mount mower as defined in claim 11, wherein said lock device is formed as a lock pedal, said brake pedal and said lock pedal being arranged side by side around a central area of said cross frame.

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claim 17 has been replaced with:

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A mid-mount mower as defined in claim 11 further comprising a link member interlocked to movement of said brake pedal, said link member blocking operation of said control device engaged with said controlled portion of the main jack body in said vertical position relative to the ground, when said brake pedal is in the non-braking position.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Árpád Fábián Kovács whose telephone number is 571 272 6990. The examiner can normally be reached on Mo-Th.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas B. Will can be reached on 571 272 6998. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Árpád Fábián Kovács
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3671

ÁFK